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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: ) Art Unit:  
)  
Jean-Jacques CLAISSE et al )  
) Washington, D.C.  
U.S. App. No.: 09/960,647 )  
) February 28, 2002  
National Filing Date: 09/24,2001 )  
)  
For: METHOD OF MANUFACTURING A.. ) Docket No.: CLAISSE=2

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Honorable Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination upon the merits, kindly amend  
as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 23 as follows:

A1  
23. (Amended) --The section claimed in claim 18  
wherein said weakened area has an oblong section.--

[Please add the following new claims:]

A2  
25. (New) --The section claimed in claim 19 wherein  
said weakened area has an oblong section.--

26. (New) --The section claimed in claim 20 wherein  
said weakened area has an oblong section.

sub  
C1  
27. (New) --The section claimed in claim 21 wherein  
said weakened area has an oblong section.--